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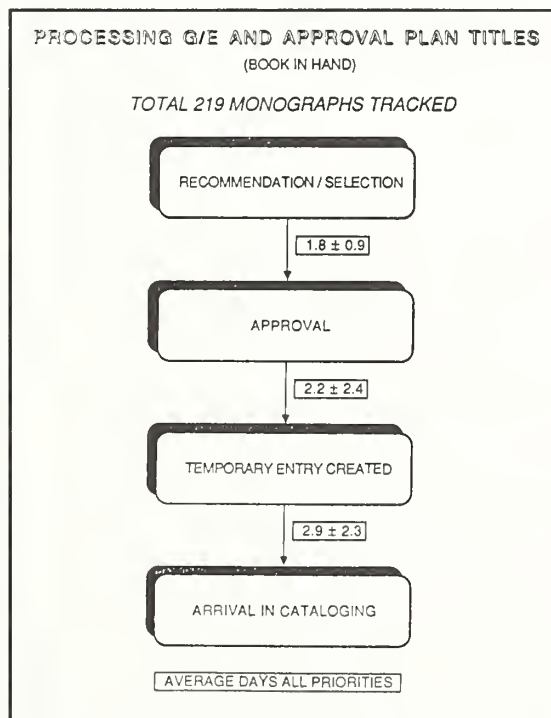
Throughput Changes Make Pubs Available Sooner, AGRICOLA Listings Quicker

by Sarah E. Thomas
Chief, Technical Services Division, NAL

In November 1987, the Technical Services Division (TSD) of the National Agricultural Library embarked on a study designed to gather information about the amount of time bibliographic materials spend in technical processing and the amount of time elapsed between receipt at NAL and the appearance of the bibliographic citation in AGRICOLA. The basic objectives of the study were to establish a baseline measurement for various technical services activities; to identify areas in need of improvement; and to provide information on processing timeframes to be used in planning NAL projects. Technical Services was frequently asked by Information Center staff to acquire, catalog, and index material to be incorporated in a bibliography, but

those preparing the bibliography were often unaware of the long lead time required for the processing of library materials. This study was intended to enlighten NAL staff about the complexities of technical processing so that more realistic time estimates could be projected for the completion of information products.

Ruth Wertman, Acquisitions & Serials Branch, assumed responsibility for implementing the project. She devised the study methodology, and prepared a tracking form to record the movement of items

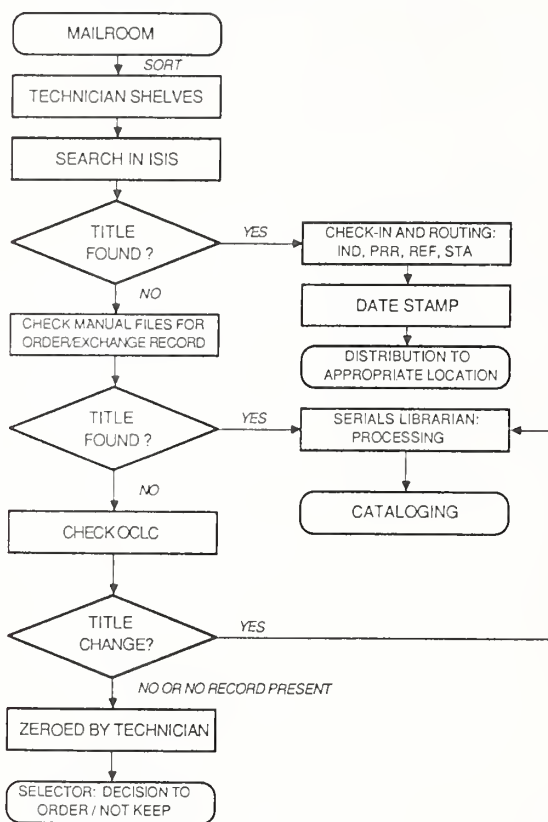


Also in this issue...

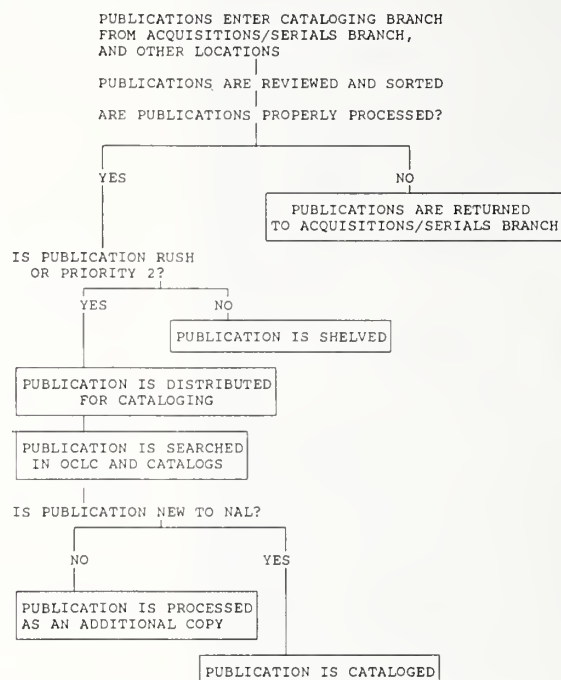
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SERIALS WORKFLOW

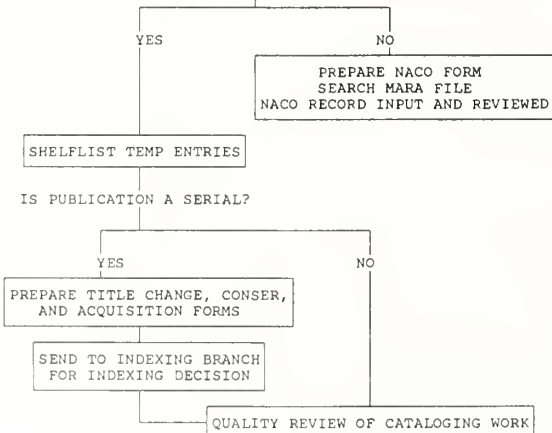


CATALOGING PREPROCESSING



CATALOGING PROCESS

DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGING
SUBJECT WORK
AUTHORITY WORK - IS NAME HEADING IN NACO?



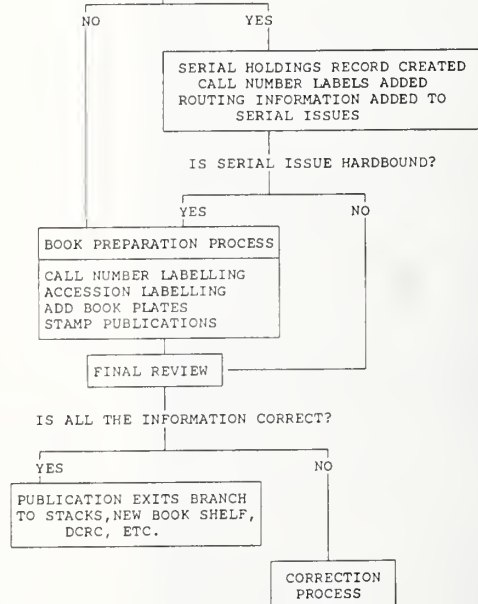
PRO*TEM DATA (DAYS IN FIVE DAY WORK WEEKS):

MONOGRAPHS: 25.0
NEW SERIALS: 3.8
SERIAL TITLE CHANGES: DATA NOT SEPARATED FROM OCLC
INPUT
MONOGRAPHS IN SERIES: 25.8

[FIGURES INCLUDE CATALOGING PREPROCESSING]

CATALOGING PUBLICATIONS PROCESSING

IS THE PUBLICATION A SERIAL?



PRO*TEM DATA (DAYS IN FIVE DAY WORK WEEKS)
TO STACKS/NEW BOOK SHELF:

MONOGRAPHS: 3.9
MONOGRAPHS IN SERIES: 6.2

TABLE I
SERIALS WORKFLOW

	Days per Operation	Total Days in Branch
Acquisitions/Serials Branch		
Mail Room through check-in	10.2	
and delivery to: a) stacks	1.3	11.5
b) Indexing	1.6	11.8
Indexing Branch		
Subject analysis	7.6	
Descriptive indexing	1.8	
Data entry	5.8	
Proofing	2.8	
Routing	1.2	19.2
AGRICOLA		
Sale tape	39.1	
AGRICOLA appearance	29.0	68.1
Average days for serial to be processed and to appear in AGRICOLA: 99.1.		
Cataloging Branch		
New serials cataloged	3.8	
OCLC Input & Processing	12.5	
Serials title changes (data not separated from OCLC input and final processing time) total time: 116.4.		

through TSD. Data gathering and evaluation for the PRO*TEM (PROcessing Time Evaluation and Measurement) study were conducted from November 2, 1987, to November 1, 1988. The cutoff date for data gathering was August 28, 1988.

Ms. Wertman randomly selected 2,159 serial issues and 422 monographic titles in 24 languages, and included a control group sample. All data was calculated using 5-day work weeks. Tracking results showed that from the time of receipt of a serial issue in the Acquisitions & Serials mailroom, the first audit point on the trail, through the appearance of the bibliographic citation to a journal article in AGRICOLA on DIALOG, almost 20 weeks had elapsed. The average time for the monographs studied to be processed and for the record to appear in DIALOG was 25 weeks. Serial and monograph workflow are detailed in the illustrations on the preceding and following pages, and Tables I and II, above, present a detailed breakdown of the average length of time spent on a given activity.

TSD circulated the PRO*TEM final report to key NAL staff for comments and analysis. Although many individuals throughout NAL were shocked to learn how long the

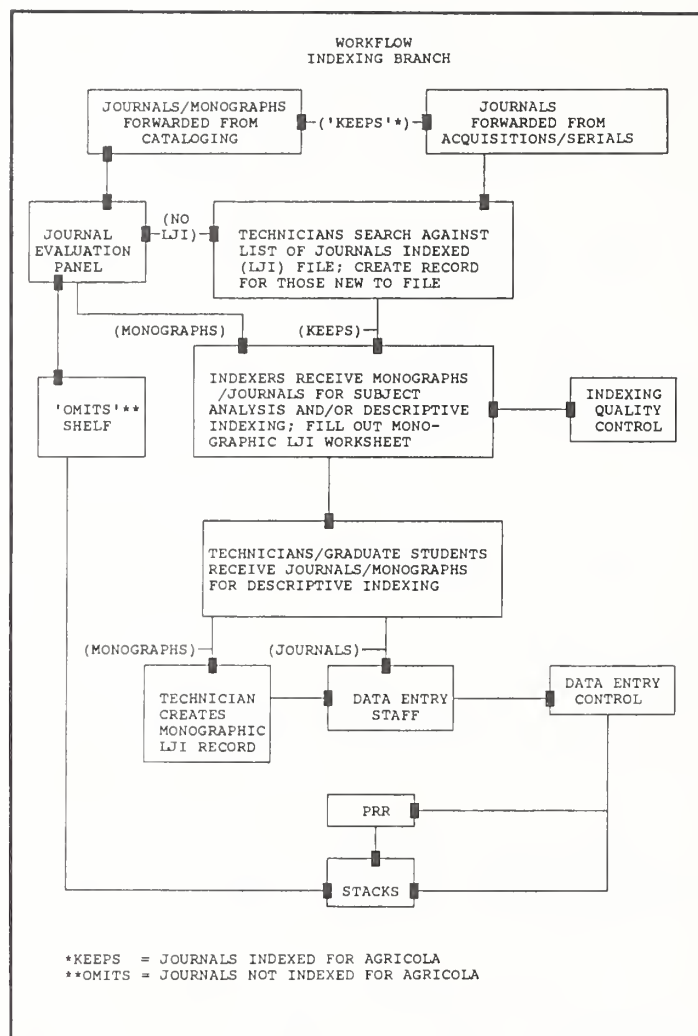
TABLE II
MONOGRAPHIC WORKFLOW

	Days per Operation	Total Days in Branch
Acquisitions/Serials Branch		
Recommendation/selection	1.8	
Temporary entry	2.2	
Route to Cataloging	2.9	6.9
Cataloging Branch		
Cataloged	25.0	
OCLC data entry	22.3	47.3
AGRICOLA		
Sale tape	44.6	
AGRICOLA	26.3	70.9
Average days for a monograph to be processed and to appear in AGRICOLA: 125.1.		

processing of materials could take, the Technical Services Division choose to make its report public to educate staff about the complexities of Technical Services activities. In many cases, the turnaround time of individual units was exemplary, but in others delays were, at least on the surface, inexplicable. TSD staff presented its analysis of the report's findings to NAL Senior Staff and took the opportunity to review various procedures in acquisitions, cataloging, indexing, and serials control.

There are many reasons for lengthy processing times. NAL Technical Services staff must search for items in many different files, including OCLC, NAL's card catalog, its integrated library system, ISIS, and the AGRICOLA database. As a CONSER (Cooperative Online Serials) and NACO (National Cooperative Cataloging Operations) participant, NAL's Cataloging Branch follows prescribed procedures that ensure quality records and that often require consultation with experts at the Library of Congress before a final record can be produced. Much of the material being acquired and cataloged for the library is unique, and consequently NAL's volume of original cataloging is higher than in many other research libraries. Many foreign language materials are processed for the collection, and the preponderance of state, U.S., and foreign government documents also contributes to the complexity of technical services tasks.

The volume and types of materials that characterize a national library's collection, therefore, also retard expeditious processing. It simply takes longer to process material that is non-standard, that is, publications that are considered "grey literature," written in languages other than English, for which the entire bibliographic record must be created from scratch, and which are often on highly specialized scientific topics.



In addition, despite TSD's attempt to streamline procedures, numerous requests for special exceptions create a situation which is not conducive to timely handling, as TSD staff cope with variations on the normal workflow.

Nonetheless, the findings revealed that beneficial changes could be made that would shorten the average amount of time a document spends being processed. As a result, several key changes have been made in workflow, resulting in a significant improvement in throughput. Wertman found that after TSD's creation of the bibliographic record, nine to ten weeks passed before the appearance of the citation in AGRICOLA. The Information Systems Division and TSD jointly reviewed the activities that consumed much of those weeks, and determined that adjustments could be made in the manner in which TSD quality review and AGRICOLA sale tape production are handled.

Subsequently, procedural modifications were made that have cut the amount of time required for these processes by at least four weeks. In addition, Technical Services managers examined all segments of operations and made numerous recommendations to reduce the amount of time material spends in the Division.

As a consequence of the report, several major and minor adjustments to TSD procedures and workflow have been made. Some simple changes, such as ensuring that certain

materials do not remain in the mailroom when the mail room technician is absent, shaved a day or two off the processing time. The Indexing Branch eliminated its "omit shelf," a station for journals not indexed in AGRICOLA, and reduced handling time for certain serials by four days. In the Cataloging Branch, it was determined that since the study had been completed, the backlog for input had already been eliminated. Other steps taken to move material through Cataloging more quickly were greater acceptance of member copy found in the OCLC database and increased use of minimal level cataloging for special categories of materials.

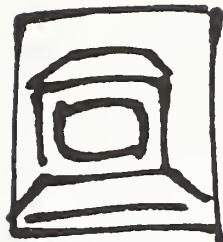
Several follow-up meetings with the Information Centers Branch and the Lending Branch staffs have continued the dialogue concerning the effective and timely flow of material through the Technical Services Division. Public Services Division staff have offered suggestions and assistance in the effort to see that NAL's important agricultural collection is made available to the public as quickly as possible. With the installation and gradual implementation of ISIS, NAL's VTLS integrated library system, other changes in workflow will occur. At some future date, the PRO*TEM study will be repeated, to determine what effect the new system and the other procedural modifications have had on processing times.

At present, however, the PRO*TEM study has served its purpose well. A baseline measurement for various tasks in Technical Services exists; more accurate information about processing timeframes is available for planning NAL products dependent on bibliographic citations generated in TSD; and several areas for improvement have been identified and acted upon. NAL's Technical Services Division continues to work towards its ultimate goal: the provision of timely and effective access to NAL's rich collection for the benefit of all agricultural researchers, scientists, and other users of agricultural information.

Erratum

The recently issued *NAL/Land-Grant State Agricultural Publications Program* brochure describing the cooperative program that is increasing access to state agricultural experiment station and extension service publications contains an egregious error. The New Mexico State University was not listed as a participating institution. We failed to note that another institution of higher education in the same state was given credit for participation. New Mexico State University Library is an active participant and gives high priority to the cataloging of state agricultural publications. NAL will correct the mistake in the next printing of the brochure. My hearty apologies to NMSU!

--Sarah E. Thomas



AGRICOLA

New Agroforestry Subfile on CAB Abstracts

A new subfile covering agroforestry was introduced to the *CAB Abstracts* database in June 1988. Agroforestry is a collective term for all land-use systems and practices in which woody perennials are deliberately grown on the same land management unit used for growing crops and/or raising animals. Although the word is relatively new, the concept is old. Throughout history, and in both temperate and tropical regions, the cultivation of combinations of tree species and agricultural crops has been practiced.

Examples of agroforestry practice include:

- Shade trees in coffee and cocoa plantations in the tropics.
- Sheep or cattle grazing in rubber and coconut plantations in the tropics and in pine plantations in temperate zones.
- Shrimp and fish farming in the mangroves of Southeast Asia.
- Traditional home gardens in Indonesia and other parts of the tropics.
- Live fences in tropical America.
- Alley cropping research and development.

Searches for records derived from the world's literature within this topic will, for new material added to the *CAB Abstracts* database, be easier to retrieve by starting a search with one of the following statements.

Host	Subfile search statement
BRS	7Y.HC.
CAN/OLE	7Y.J
DIALOG	SF=7B
ESA-IRS	AJ=7B
JICST	CB:7B&
Tsukuba	SJ'AGROFORESTRY ABSTRACTS'

A sample record from the agroforestry subfile is shown below:

The dehesa: an agrosilvopastoral system of the Mediterranean region with special reference to the Sierra Morena area of Spain.

Joffre, R.; Vacher, J.; Llanos, C. de los; Long, G. Casa de Velazquez, Ciudad Univ., 28040 Madrid, Spain.

Agroforestry Systems 1988. 6(1): 71-96 (33 ref.)

Language: English

A multidisciplinary team undertook a 6-year investigation on the agro-ecological and socio-economic aspects of the dehesa system in the Sierra Norte area of the Sierra Morena. In SW Spain, 'dehesa' is used to denote the

land-use system in rural areas, mainly rangeland, which are occupied by scattered oak trees (*Quercus rotundifolia*, *Q. suber*, *Q. faginea*); the system has been known for many centuries for its multiple, mainly silvopastoral, use of renewable resources, and its strong linkages to recurrent cereal cropping in rangelands. This paper summarizes the findings of the investigation and evaluates the system's functional aspects vis-a-vis the trends in developments in land use in the region over the past few centuries. The synergistic effects of tree cover on understorey grassland vegetation are discussed in terms of soil fertility build-up and favourable microclimatic and hydrological features, and the potential use of this information in future research and development programmes to improve the dehesa system in the Mediterranean region is outlined.

Subject Index Terms: agrosilvopastoral systems; descriptions; management; spain; ecology; soil fertility; hydrology; development; degradation; cereals; intercropping; trees

Geographic Names: Spain

Records from the subfile, as with all of the *CAB Abstracts* database, include fact-filled abstracts written by CABI's scientific experts. These abstracts save time in selecting original documents that need to be found. (*CAB Abstracts* records with abstracts cost no more than just the bibliographic data.) The abstracts are one reason why many agricultural scientists rate *CAB Abstracts* first among agricultural databases. Original documents can be ordered online using DIALORDER, or QUESTORDER (ESA-IRS). Alternatively they may be ordered directly from CAB International Library Services Centre at the following address:

Document Delivery Service
Silwood Park
Buckhurst Road
Ascot, Berks, SL5 7TA
UK

Tel: (0990) 872747

Fax: (0990) 872901

Tlx: 9312102256 (DD G)

Prior to June 1988 agroforestry records must be retrieved by selecting appropriate terms and synonyms. Choosing these terms is facilitated by consulting the *CAB Thesaurus*, 1988 Edition, which contains the following entries:

AGROFORESTRY

(land use system in which woody perennials are deliberately grown with agricultural crops, with or without animals)

uf	agriforestry
uf	agro-forestry
BT1	forestry
rt	agroforestry systems
rt	community forestry
rt	farm forestry
rt	farm woodlands
rt	intercropping
rt	land use
rt	multiple land use

rt	multipurpose trees
rt	shifting cultivation
rt	social forestry

AGROFORESTRY SYSTEMS

(land use systems in which woody perennials are deliberately grown with agricultural crops, with or without animals)

NT1	agrosilviaquacultural systems
NT1	agrosilvicultural systems
NT2	alley cropping
NT2	forest gardens
NT2	mixed gardens
NT2	multistorey cropping
NT2	taungya
NT2	tree gardens
NT1	agrosilvopastoral systems
NT2	home gardens
NT1	aquasilvicultural systems
NT1	silvopastoral systems
NT2	live fences
NT2	protein banks
NT1	village forest gardens
rt	agroforestry
rt	corridor systems
rt	hedges
rt	multipurpose trees
rt	shifting cultivation

Restricting the search to subject index terms and title fields will greatly improve the relevance of records retrieved.

The two volume *CAB Thesaurus*, 1988 Edition, is available at £80.00 UK / US\$150.00 Americas / £88.00 Elsewhere. Orders and enquiries may be sent to:

CAB International
Wallingford
Oxon OX10 8DE
UK

Tel: 0491 32111
Tlx: 847964 COMAGG G
Fax: 0491 33508

CAB International
845 North Park Avenue
Tucson, AZ 85719
USA

Tel: (800) 528-4841 toll free; (602) 621-7897
Fax: (602) 621-3816

CAB International
P.O. Box 11872
50760 Kuala Lumpur
Malaysia

Tel: 03 2552111; 03 2552922
Tlx: 28031 MA CABI
Fax: 03 2551888

--CAB International, June 1989

Agroforestry in AGRICOLA

Forestry and its ancillary fields have continually been core subjects of the AGRICOLA database. Forestry related records comprise about 7% of AGRICOLA since 1984, and topics include forest products, forest engineering and harvesting, forest economics and management, silviculture, trade and marketing, forest fires, forest pests and diseases, and other related fields such as agroforestry.

Although AGRICOLA is not organized into subfiles in the same manner as the *CAB Abstracts* database, it includes material similar to that in the CAB subfiles. Agroforestry, which is the combined culture of tree species and agricultural crops or animals, has become a topic of great interest to researchers. Current information concerning agroforestry is contained in the AGRICOLA database and can be easily retrieved on-line. Agroforestry indexing records in the AGRICOLA database since 1985 carry subject category codes J700 and K001. Appropriate agroforestry terms and synonyms to search AGRICOLA indexing records can be found in the *CAB Thesaurus*. However, this thesaurus was not used to index materials for the AGRICOLA database until 1985, and there are differences between the first and second editions of the thesaurus. As a result, a thorough search of AGRICOLA for agroforestry and other forestry topics must include the title, abstract, and identifier fields, as well as the descriptor field.

A *Quick Bibliography* (No. 88-70), entitled "Agroforestry, 1979-March 1988," which contains 322 English language citations from AGRICOLA, is available from NAL. It is a selective, rather than exhaustive, search of the AGRICOLA database. Searching AGRICOLA on-line for the most current literature concerning agroforestry is recommended. To request a copy of the bibliography, send a self-addressed label with the request to:

Reference Branch, Room 111
National Agricultural Library
10301 Baltimore Boulevard
Beltsville, MD 20705

--Lori Starr

Surplus Books & Journals Needed

The University of Illinois has an Agricultural Development Program in Pakistan.

Anyone who has surplus books and journals on agricultural and biological sciences and would like to donate them to this program, please call Karen Russon at (217) 244-5651.



News from Other Libraries

ARS Library Revamp Pays Off at Fresno

by Dr. Joe Smilanick
Research Plant Pathologist
Agricultural Research Service
Fresno, CA 93727

Most USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) sites use small on-site libraries, NAL's Current Awareness Literature Service (CALS) or other searches, and NAL's Regional Document Delivery System (RDDS) to keep informed. The ARS Location in Fresno, California, was no exception, but unfortunately the Library had fallen into neglect over the years. In the summer of 1988, the status of the USDA-ARS library in Fresno and the USDA literature request system available to the Location was scrutinized by an *ad hoc* committee, appointed by Louis Aung, Research Leader of the Postharvest Quality and Genetics Research Unit, and Mr. Ted Sibia, Head of the Biological/Agricultural Department of the Library of the University of California at Davis.

The conclusion of the committee was that the USDA-ARS Location Library at Fresno was inadequate. It had contained donated personal literature files and the contents of four small libraries (plant sciences, genetics, entomology, and water management) that had been merged, with each collection maintaining a different cataloging system. It was crowded, had no shelf space, and many items were missing. The library was used as a storage area and was so congested that users had difficulty navigating between the stacks and finding items which were supposed to be there, but were out of place. All of these problems resulted in unnecessary borrowing of material already in the collection but unlocatable. Also, literature searches conducted through services of NAL were excellent but time consuming. Furthermore, many requests for literature sent to the Regional Document Delivery System were poorly hand-written, unintelligible, or incomplete. In short, the library needed reorganization and a new staff commitment.

With Mr. Sibia's help the Committee determined that with careful planning, hard work, and some technological innovation, the on-site library could be greatly improved to serve the needs of the staff.

A plan detailing many of Mr. Sibia's and the Committee's ideas and incorporating staff suggestions was compiled. All of this discussion resulted in the implementation of new library policies. All new monograph acquisitions henceforth would be classified using the Library of Congress system and available catalog copy. The size of the collection was

reduced by retaining only the most recent ten years of those journals important to the staff. Older volumes were moved to a new library annex made from a converted chemical storage room. Older industry magazines and other obsolete items were donated to other institutions or discarded. Some journal subscriptions, that were used very little, were cancelled because they were very expensive. A stand-alone periodical literature search system was suggested by Mr. Sibia. With the encouragement of the Horticultural Crops Research Laboratory Director, Dr. Patrick Vail, and funds contributed by the three Management Units at the Location, AGRICOLA on CD-ROM was purchased and installed on a dedicated microcomputer. Two compact disk readers in a daisy-chain configuration were installed and can be used to search 10 or more years of literature without interruption. The database on CD-ROM, available at half-price to the USDA, is updated every 3 months.

A central open area in the library was created and new chairs and a table were acquired. Many journals, formerly laboriously routed through individual staff mail boxes, are now available in a comfortable browsing area of the renovated, more spacious, library.

The Library has been transformed from an antiquated and inadequate eyesore to an attractive resource for the Fresno Location for about \$7,000 and the dedicated efforts of the Committee and staff. Researchers have an organized and cataloged collection with room to expand, additional quiet space for reading and study, and a rapid and relatively inexpensive computer literature search system. Use of the Regional Document Delivery System has been streamlined since most of the error-prone handwritten requests have been replaced by hard copies generated by the computer system.

In addition, almost all of the research staff attended a workshop given by Ted Sibia on how to use the Regional Document Delivery System to get fast results. The Library is maintained part-time by a staff member at the Location. With a little energy and a relatively small monetary investment, the Location now has a working library which is actually functioning as an information source for the research staff.

ATMIC Seeks Non-Print Materials

The Agricultural Trade and Marketing Information Center is seeking tapes and films on agricultural marketing and related topics. If you have such a collection, Mary Lassanyi would appreciate information on availability, list of titles, and other pertinent information. Please contact her at the following address or telephone numbers:

*National Agricultural Library
ATTN: ATMIC, RM 205
10301 Baltimore Boulevard
Beltsville, MD 20705.*

Or call: (301) 344-1681 or (301) 344-5414.

--Mary Lassanyi



New Publications of Note

"World List of Poultry Serials" Available

The "World List of Poultry Serials," published by the National Agricultural Library in August 1989, is a bibliography of 1,641 serial titles. Made possible through a generous gift from the American Poultry Historical Society to NAL, and compiled by David Goldberg and Stanislaw Kosecki of the NAL staff, it makes accessible in one place bibliographic information on the variety of serial literature about poultry science and poultry products world-wide.

In his foreword, John L. Skinner, Archivist of the American Poultry Historical Society, gives a brief history of poultry as domestic and farm animals and of poultry economics and journalism. He said that current economics "has put great emphasis on accurate, concise, and timely information. Poultry periodicals...have played a vital role. Those that we have saved from the past give us a better understanding of the conditions that prevailed and the emphasis that was present at their time of issue. So much has been written and so little saved that it is vitally important that existing resources be identified for use by future generations in order that today's discoveries be real progress and not just the uncovering of something previously done but whose records were not preserved."

The bibliography includes scholarly journals; specialized and commercial periodicals, as well as those for poultry fanciers; government, academic, and other research reports; association and society publications; popular magazines; newsletters; and so forth. Among the sources used to find these titles were online databases, printed bibliographies, the NAL collection, and specialized lists. The titles selected were chosen for their coverage of poultry topics. If there were words in the title or issuing agency related to poultry, or if they were found on specialized lists, they were selected for this bibliography. An effort was made to include every poultry serial title for which some bibliographic information was available. There are 53 countries and 30 different languages represented.

The 182-page bibliography, published in the U.S. Department of Agriculture series, *Bibliographies and Literature of Agriculture*, Number 76

(BLA-76), is arranged alphabetically by title, with each title assigned an entry number. It includes a "Place of Publication Index" and a "Corporate Name Index." The latter includes the names of associations, societies, commercial firms, government agencies, academic institutions, and other issuing organizations. Access from the indexes is by entry number. Each listing includes, in addition to the title, qualifiers to distinguish similar titles from one another, beginning and ending dates (if known), names of corporate or issuing organizations, alternate titles, place of publication, and publisher. Also included are language of text, frequency, the International Standard Serial Number (ISSN), and for titles held by NAL, its call number and the Library's holdings.

The NAL collection contains nearly two-thirds of the titles listed; however, there are gaps in the holdings of some titles. It is hoped that one of the uses of the bibliography will be to serve as a finding aid to fill in NAL's holdings and to develop as complete a collection of poultry serials as possible. Donations of materials will be greatly appreciated and can be sent to:

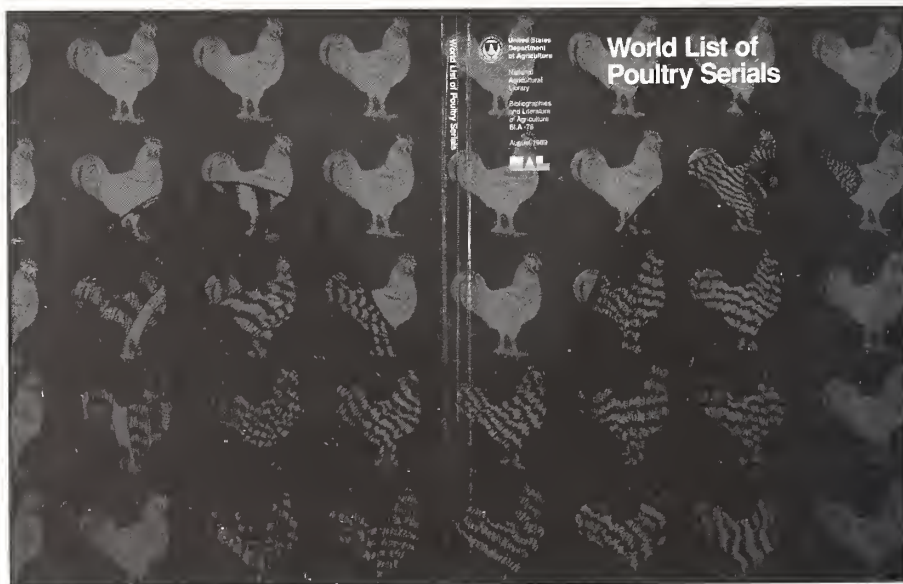
*National Agricultural Library
World List of Poultry Serials
Gift and Exchange Unit, Room 002
10301 Baltimore Boulevard
Beltsville, Maryland 20705*

NAL would also be pleased to hear about any corrections or additions of titles to the list. Please contact David Goldberg at the address below or call (301) 344-3729.

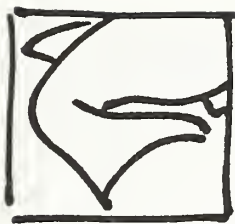
To obtain a copy of the "World List of Poultry Serials" send a self-addressed label with the request to:

*National Agricultural Library
World List of Poultry Serials
Cataloging Branch, Room 110
10301 Baltimore Boulevard
Beltsville, MD 20705*

--David Goldberg



The cover of the "World List of Poultry Serials," *Bibliographies and Literature of Agriculture*, Number 76. cover design: Victor Newman



Aquaculture

"Practical Aquaculture II: A Bibliography" Available

The Aquaculture Information Center of the National Agricultural Library has just published "Practical Aquaculture Literature II: A Bibliography." This *annotated* bibliography updates the first "Practical Aquaculture Literature" issued in August 1985, a heavily used bibliographical resource for obtaining practical information in aquaculture. Most of the update consists of new material, most of it non-copyrighted, and the majority of citations are "how-to" publications. The purpose of the bibliography is to provide sources of practical information related to all aspects of aquaculture for fish farmers, aquaculture specialists, educators, librarians, information professionals, Federal and State personnel, students, and the private sector.



The cover of "Practical Aquaculture Literature II," *Bibliographies and Literature of Agriculture*, Number 75.

The 175-page bibliography covers aquaculture by species and subject area; it lists selected periodicals, newsletters, books, bibliographies, directories, and State publications. It also lists State extension specialists, aquaculture associations, and Regional Aquaculture Centers. Each bibliographic citation is annotated with a summary of the contents of the publication, followed by information on its availability. A list of addresses of publication sources is included.

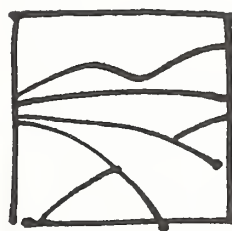
This bibliography results from a two-year joint effort of the Aquaculture Information Center and the Joint Subcommittee on Aquaculture, which consists of representatives of all of the major Federal departments and agencies having aquaculture programs. Aquaculture specialists from the Extension Service and the NOAA Sea-Grant Program, land-

grant and sea-grant libraries, other information professionals, and the Southern Regional Aquaculture Center, all contributed significantly by donating selected publications that are "practical" for the hands-on aquaculturist.

The bibliography was published in the U.S. Department of Agriculture series, *Bibliographies and Literature of Agriculture*, Number 75 (BLA-75). It updates BLA-35. A limited number of copies are currently available and may be obtained by sending a request with a self-addressed mailing label to:

*Aquaculture Information Center
National Agricultural Library
Room 304; ATTN: PAL
10301 Baltimore Boulevard
Beltsville, MD 20705*

--Eileen M. McVey



**Rural
Information
Center**

USDA Rural Revitalization Task Force Recommends Strengthening the Rural Information Center

Summarized by Patricia L. John

This spring the Secretary of Agriculture established a Department-wide Rural Revitalization Task Force to examine the rural economic situation and make recommendations about USDA's future role in providing rural economic development. The result was the June 30, 1989, report to the Secretary of Agriculture, *A Hard Look at USDA's Rural Development Programs*, in which the Task Force made 18 recommendations.

The Task Force identified for review 78 rural nonfarm programs of eight USDA agencies: the Cooperative Extension Service, the Economic Research Service, the Farmers Home Administration, the Food and Nutrition Service, the Forest Service, the National Agricultural Library (Rural Information Center), the Rural Electrification Administration, and the Soil Conservation Service. In addition, USDA shares the responsibility of rural economic development with other Federal departments and with State and local governments.

The Task Force next conducted surveys of the USDA field and Washington office staffs. The surveys identified rural needs and problems, examined the wide range of current USDA rural programs, and identified factors affecting the performance of these programs. The surveys led the Task Force to conclude that, "while USDA's programs seek to provide help to rural communities and rural people, for

the most part they do not promote any single strategy for developing rural areas. In some cases also, rural needs have changed faster than programs have adapted to keep pace. As a result, current rural development programs make an uneven contribution to the overall goal of improving the performance of the rural economy." [p. 7]

USDA rural programs must adjust to the changes in rural America. Today only two percent of the U.S. population lives on farms and fewer than nine percent of the rural labor force farm. Nonfarm industries predominate in most rural areas. Despite these changes which the Task Force observed, the Department's attention remains heavily concentrated on the agricultural sector of the rural economy. Although USDA's authorizing legislation gives the Department the lead Federal responsibility for coordinating rural development programs, half of USDA's 1988 budget was spent on farm programs. As a result, agricultural initiatives frequently dominate the attention of USDA management while concerted action on equally worthy rural development objectives receives less attention.

The Task Force, through its 18 recommendations, intends to sharpen the focus of USDA's rural policy and programs and to strengthen USDA's capacity for effective program implementation. The recommendations have four themes: (1) clarifying USDA's commitment to rural development, (2) strengthening coordination among USDA's rural programs, (3) enhancing USDA's capacity for strategic action, and (4) improving USDA's ability to implement its rural programs.

The Task Force recommended that USDA affirm publicly that rural economic development is a basic USDA responsibility, adopt a clear mission statement, and publicize it widely to clarify USDA's commitment to rural development.

The Task Force made two recommendations for strengthening the coordination of USDA's rural programs. First, USDA should establish a policy-level coordinating Rural Policy Council (RPC) chaired by the Under Secretary for Small Community and Rural Development. Second, USDA should strengthen the State-level Food and Agriculture Councils (FACs) and place them under the jurisdiction of the Under Secretary.

There are eight Task Force recommendations for enhancing USDA's capacity for strategic action: (1) creating a permanent staff for the Under Secretary for Small Community and Rural Development, (2) establishing a Department-level long range planning process which would be coordinated with the RPC, (3) requiring the FACs to provide leadership to State rural development efforts, (4) linking policy decisions with USDA's rural development mission statement, (5) developing statistical indicators to measure national progress in achieving rural economic development goals, (6) studying the success of alternative economic development strategies, (7) studying alternatives for targeting and coordinating USDA rural development programs and developing indicators for allocating funds and projects among states and counties, (8) directing the RPC to evaluate the effectiveness of USDA's rural programs in meeting the Department's rural development mission.

The Task Force's five concluding recommendations focused on improving USDA's ability to implement rural programs. These recommendations resulted from the con-

cern that USDA lacks a direct mechanism to communicate rural development issues department-wide since efforts to do so are fragmented and dispersed throughout its agencies. The Task Force recommended (1) that USDA direct the RPC to review USDA job skill requirements and to make recommendations on educational requirements and training needs of USDA rural development program staff, (2) that USDA produce a rural development newsletter to keep staff informed; (3) that USDA strengthen the resources of the Rural Information Center (RIC) at the National Agricultural Library, encourage its use among USDA staff, and require that RIC summarize and report its information requests to the RPC to assist in identifying emerging rural issues; (4) that USDA produce orientation programs to better inform USDA staff about rural problems, USDA strategies addressing them, and provide staff with a better understanding of USDA's mission and involvement in rural development, and finally, (5) that USDA encourage a stronger Land-Grant role in research and extension commitment to rural economic development issues.



**Food &
Nutrition**

Electronic "Food and Nutrition" Information Service

The "Food and Nutrition" database, part of USDA ONLINE, USDA's electronic information service on the Dialcom, Inc., computer system, is available to USDA and other government and non-government users of USDA information.

The service carries "consumer"-oriented, and generally non-technical, information on nutrition and related food research; basic human nutrition and diet; post harvest and food marketing; food economics and costs; food assistance programs; and food safety.

Included are current news items, bibliographies and publications lists; regularly issued materials; entire texts of selected publications, for example, *Dietary Guidelines for Americans*; brief descriptions and information contacts of USDA agencies with nutrition and nutrition-related responsibilities; and information developed specifically for the electronic service.

For information on the Food and Nutrition Information Service, contact:

*Denver Browning
Special Programs Division*

Office of Information
Room 536-A, USDA
Washington, DC 20250.

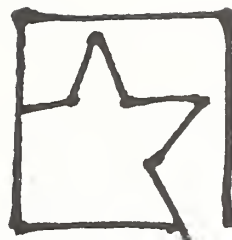
Telephone: (202) 447-2058. Dialcom E-mail AGR209.

For information on subscribing to Dialcom, contact:

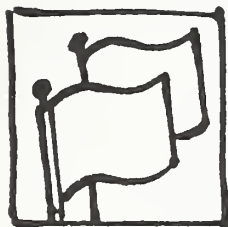
Jackie Karotsch
Dialcom, Inc., Suite 500
6120 Executive Boulevard
Rockville, MD 20852.

Telephone: 301-770-4280.

--Denver Browning



**Special
Events**



Visitors

Visitors from State Lenin Library Discuss VTLS System

Recently Dr. Anatoly P. Volik, Deputy Director of the State V. I. Lenin Library of the USSR, Moscow, and a colleague, Mr. Repin, visited NAL, where they held discussions with Joseph H. Howard, NAL Director, and other NAL management staff, and received demonstrations of NAL's various new technology applications. One of their primary interests was NAL's integrated library system, ISIS, which uses a VTLS System like that recently acquired by the State Lenin Library to meet its automation needs. Dr. Volik indicated that a test version of the VTLS software has already been installed in Moscow, and that the final system would be put in place in the autumn of 1989.



photo: D. Starr

(L-R) Mr. Repin, Mr. Joseph H. Howard, NAL Director, and Dr. Anatoly P. Volik, Deputy Director of the State V. I. Lenin Library of the USSR, Moscow.

NAL to Host Private Sector Partnership Day

The National Agricultural Library will host a special Open House for publishers and other commercial information providers on Thursday, October 26, 1989, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at NAL in Beltsville, Maryland.

The Open House will feature tours, discussions, demonstrations of optical and digital information technologies, and a display of NAL prized collections which are prime candidates for preservation, miniaturization and publication in a wide variety of media.

There will be opportunities for representatives from the private sector to discuss the possibilities for joint ventures that would:

- make unique NAL materials available to a broader audience;
- provide better access to agricultural information; and
- provide an attractive marketing opportunity.

The National Agricultural Library is proud of what has already been accomplished in cooperation with the private sector to improve access to and dissemination of agricultural information. With additional support and cooperation on projects of mutual benefit much more can be done to serve the information needs of the country and the world.

For further information, contact:

National Agricultural Library
Special Services Branch, Room 1402
10301 Baltimore Boulevard
Beltsville, Maryland 20705

Or call (301) 344-3875.

Hispanic Cookbook Exhibit

National Agricultural Library will be celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 through October 15, 1989, with several activities. One of them will be an exhibit of Hispanic cookbooks available at NAL. This exhibit will be in the lobby display cases from September 18th through October 18th and covers the broad range of Hispanic culture, from the Basque region of Spain to Bolivia to the Caribbean to the Southwest area of the United States. At least 10 countries or regions are represented. NAL will also show 5 films during October to conclude Hispanic Heritage Month. (See *Hispanic*, page 13, col. 1)



Hauser Retires



photo: D. Starr

Bill Hauser

William (Bill) G. Hauser, the curator of photography collections in NAL Special Collections and a leader in preserving visual images on laser video disks, retired at the end of August. Friends from NAL, the Forest Service, and other agencies gathered on August 30 to wish him well.

Mr. Hauser was born in Bell, California. A graduate of Pasadena City College in the fields of art, graphic arts, and history, he also

studied at UCLA and California State at Los Angeles. He worked at night for the U.S. Postal Service while attending school.

Mr. Hauser served at the Inyo National Forest in Bishop, California, from 1967 to 1975 as graphic designer for visitor information displays, visitor brochures, and recreation maps, and as a public information officer, photographer, and EEO counselor. Visual Information Services grew at the Inyo in 8 years from one person to 5 artisans and a separate exhibit-building shop under his supervision. He also served on the planning teams for the Mammoth Lakes Visitor Center, the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Botanical Area, and the Forest Plan.

In 1975, Mr. Hauser became curator of the Permanent Image Collection of historical photographs in the Office of the Chief of the Forest Service. Under his hand, the existing computer data base for the photo collection was moved to a main frame computer in Ft. Collins, Colorado, which allowed cus-

tom listings to be printed for many National Forests locally on their own equipment—an innovation at the time. When the Forest Service Historical Photograph Collection was moved to the National Agricultural Library in Beltsville, Maryland, in 1985, he transferred to NAL and continued as curator.

At NAL, Mr. Hauser has been instrumental in developing laser disk and other technologies. Simply put, his ability to meet the technology challenge and serve the user and his fellow employees has been a truly valuable asset. He began planning the Forest Service Laser Disk in 1985, and in concert with the University of Maryland Non-Print Media Center, produced the disk and a data base finding aid. He proposed basic technological system changes, which with the backing of the USDA Productivity Improvement Team for Photo Collections, and the USDA Office of Governmental and Public Affairs Photography Division, became the OGPA WORM Laser Disk Project. The first of a series of USDA Photo Disks will be pressed in September 1989.

Mr. Hauser's dedication to utilizing appropriate "new" technology assured the completion of important technology initiatives at NAL, but also will have a significant and lasting positive impact on USDA photographic image storage and retrieval systems. For his achievements in the area, he has received awards from USDA as well as private organizations such as Sigma Xi.

In September following his retirement from the government, Mr. Hauser will join the staff of the Orkand Corporation in Silver Spring. He will be a Senior Staff Consultant adding visual systems to existing contracts for information systems, analysis, and management consulting services for government and industry, and he will be developing new contracts.



photo: Yuengi Yee, FS.

Bill Hauser not only developed new technology products, but also helped market them. In a typical demonstration of NAL's Forest Service Photographs laser disk and its word searchable database, he presents the system to George Leonard, Associate Chief of the Forest Service, at a meeting of Regional Foresters and Forestry Research Area Directors held in 1988.



In this photo selected by Bill Hauser to illustrate the photo collections at NAL of which he was curator, a fire fighter can barely be seen high in the large spruce tree in the upper left corner. The fire fighter, nearly enveloped in smoke, cooned up an alder felled against the spruce, and fights the fire with water drawn up in a can. Photo No. 424110. Taken by R. L. Fromme, Olympic National Forest, Washington, April 1915.

Mr. Hauser's wife, Kathryn Hauser, is Appeals Coordinator, Office of the Chief of the Forest Service. She is finishing her Masters in administration and management at the University of Maryland this semester under the sponsorship of USDA. We wish Bill the best in his new and exciting career in the private sector.

(Hispanic, from page 11)

Laura Nauta, the Hispanic and Others Special Emphasis Manager for NAL, organized the month-long celebration and arranged the exhibit with the assistance of Tanya Tanner, Black Special Emphasis Manager, and Ellen Nollman, Japanese Language Cataloger. Copies of several recipes will be available at the exhibit.

--Laura Nauta

Lori Starr

Lori Starr joined the Indexing Branch of the National Agricultural Library as a Technical Information Specialist in November 1987. She is an Indexer, specializing in the areas of horticulture and other plant sciences. In addition, she assists Martha Hood, the *CAB Thesaurus* Coordinator.

Ms. Starr, who has lived in the College Park area most of her life, is a graduate of the University of Maryland with a B.S. and M.S. in ornamental horticulture. Her

outside interests include gardening, bicycling, handicrafts, and being a spectator at bicycle races. Her husband, Daniel Starr—the bicycle racer—is a Technical Information Specialist in NAL's Information Systems Division.



photo: J. Swab

Lori Starr



New Bibliographies

Quick Bibliographies

The bibliographies in the *Quick Bibliography* series are primarily computerized online as batch bibliographies emanating from searches performed by the NAL Public Services Division Staff in response to customer requests. Searches are selected for inclusion based on the currency of the topic, interest among clientele, and probable value to a larger audience. Since October 1988, all *QB's* include search strategies. Unless otherwise specified, citations are from AGRICOLA.

The other bibliographic series, including *Special Reference Briefs*, have been researched and produced to meet special needs of clientele of the Library and its Information Centers. Revisions or updates will be announced when produced. Only one copy of a requested title will be sent; however, requesters may make copies. To request a copy of a *Quick Bibliography*, *Special Reference Brief*, or other bibliographic work, circle the desired title(s) on the next pages and send your request with a self-addressed label

to:

*Reference Branch, Room 111
National Agricultural Library
10301 Baltimore Boulevard
Beltsville, MD 20705*

Q.B.--89-78. Aquaculture Production Systems: Earthen Ponds, January 1982-March 1989. 163 citations; languages: none excluded. Prepared by Deborah T. Hanfman. June 1989. Updates 88-33.

Q.B.--89-79. Nutrition Education Printed Materials and Audiovisuals: Grades Preschool Through 6, January 1979-May 1989. 423 citations; English only. Prepared by Shirley King Evans. July 1989. Updates 87-54.

Q.B.--89-80. Nutrition Education Printed Materials and Audiovisuals: Grades 7 Through 12, January 1979-May 1989. 190 citations; English only. Prepared by Shirley King Evans. July 1989. Updates 87-55.

Q.B.--89-81. Aquaculture Production Systems: Other Than Ponds, January 1979-May 1989. 205 citations; languages: none excluded. Prepared by Deborah T. Hanfman. July 1989. Updates 88-34.

Q.B.--89-82. Shrimp Mariculture, January 1982-April 1989. 109 citations; languages: none excluded. Prepared by Eileen M. McVey. July 1989. Updates 87-47.

Q.B.--89-83. Sugar Substitutes and Alternative Sweeteners, January 1983-April 1989. 251 citations; English only. Prepared by Jayne T. MacLean. July 1989. Updates 86-68.

Q.B.--89-84. Biotechnology: Genetic Linkage Studies (Gene Mapping) in Plant Systems, January 1979-April 1989. 367 citations; languages: none excluded. Prepared by Suzanne Nanis. July 1989.

Q.B.--89-85. Plant Propagation, January 1979-March 1989. 267 citations; English only. Prepared by Henry Gilbert. July 1989.

Q.B.--89-86. Lawn Care, Jan. 1979-March 1989. 162 citations; English only. Prepared by Henry Gilbert. July 1989.

Q.B.--89-87. Lyme Disease (Tick Borne), January 1979-March 1989. 139 citations; languages: none excluded. Prepared by Henry Gilbert. July 1989.

Q.B.--89-88. Tissue Culture: Plants, January 1985-April 1989. 299 citations; English only. Prepared by Henry Gilbert. July 1989. Updates 88-50.

Q.B.--89-89. The Neem Tree: An Inhibitor of Insect Feeding and Growth, January 1982-April 1989. 302 citations; English only. Prepared by Henry Gilbert. July 1989. Updates 86-27.

Q.B.--89-90. Commercial Vegetable Production, January 1979-March 1989. 156 citations; English only. Prepared by

Henry Gilbert. July 1989.

Q.B.--89-91. Agricultural and Farmer Cooperatives, Jan. 1979-March 1989. 346 citations; English only. Prepared by Patricia La Caille John. July 1989. Updates 88-61.

Q.B.--89-92. Grass Carp (White Amur), Jan. 1970-March 1989. 139 citations; languages: none excluded. Prepared by Ann Townsend Young. July 1989. Updates 84-07.

Q.B.--89-93. Seaweed Culture, January 1970-April 1989. 262 citations; languages: none excluded. Prepared by Ann Townsend Young and Linda M. Braun. July 1989.

Q.B.--89-94. Deer Farming, January 1979-May 1989. 147 citations; languages: none excluded. Prepared by Jean A. Larson. July 1989.

Q.B.--89-95. Raising Quail, Partridge, Pheasant, Bobwhites, and Ostriches, January 1979-May 1989. 103 citations; languages: none excluded. Prepared by Jean A. Larson. July 1989.

Q.B.--89-96. Global Warming and the Greenhouse Effect, January 1979-May 1989. 292 citations; languages: none excluded. Prepared by Jayne T. MacLean. August 1989. Updates 88-73.

Q.B.--89-97. Double Cropping and Interplanting, Jan. 1987-May 1989. 307 citations; English only. Prepared by Jayne T. MacLean. August 1989. Updates 89-14.

Q.B.--89-98. Ag In the Classroom: Instructional Materials on Agricultural Education, January 1979-April 1989. 117 citations; English only. Prepared by Lee Decker. August 1989.

Q.B.--89-99. Effects of Nematodes and Nematicides on Plants, January 1979-May 1989. 266 citations; languages: none excluded. Prepared by Carol Kopolow. August 1989.

Q.B.--89-100. Aquatic Vegetation Control, January 1970-April 1989. 233 citations; languages: none excluded. Prepared by Ann Townsend Young. September 1989.

Q.B.--89-101. Gasohol, January 1982-April 1989. 192 citations; English only. Prepared by Sheldon Cheney. September 1989. Updates 81-27.

Q.B.--89-102. Use of Computers for Farm Management, January 1986-March 1989. 215 citations; English only. Prepared by Lee Decker. September 1989. Updates 88-52.

Agri-Topics

Cheese and Yogurt Making at Home. Prepared by Rebecca Thompson. April 1989.

Aqua-Topics

Aquaculture for Youth and Youth Educators. Prepared

Special Reference Briefs

S.R.B.--89-07. The Russian Wheat Aphid. Prepared by Wayne K. Olson. May 1989.

S.R.B.--89-08. Reference Materials for Non-Affiliated Members of Animal Care and Use Committees. Prepared by Kevin P. Engler. May 1989.

S.R.B.--89-09. The European Community (EC). Prepared by Mary Lassanyi. July 1989.

Other Publications

Audio-Visuals Relating to Animal Care, Use, and Welfare. Prepared by Kevin P. Engler. June 1989.

Educational and Training Opportunities in Organic, Low Input or Sustainable Agriculture. Prepared by Jane Potter Gates and Kathryn Bielenberg. August 1989.



New Serials Received at NAL

Advances in Horticultural Science. Firenze, Italy: Dept. of Horticulture, University of Florence. Two issues yearly. 1987, n. 1-

SB13.A27

AgriScience. [Ottawa, Ont.: Agrican Publishers Inc.]. Monthly (except July-Aug. combined). Jan. 1989-

S1.A47

Annual Report / Agricultural and Food Research Council, Institute of Horticultural Research. [Maidstone, Kent]: The Institute. Annual. 1987-

SB317.5.I57

Australian Systematic Botany. East Melbourne, Vic.: Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization with the cooperation of the Australian Academy of Science. Four no. a year. Vol. 1, no. 1 [c1988]-

QK1.A82

Behavioural & Political Animal Studies. [Hamilton, N.Z.: Animal Archives]. Semiannual. Vol. 1, no. 1 (July 1988)-

HV4701.B44

Feedback. [Sydney, N.S.W., Australia: Aus-Meat]. Bimonthly. Vol. 1, no. 4 (Aug. 1988)-

HD9428.A8A877

Information Standards Quarterly / a Publication of the National Information Standards Organization. [Gaithersburg, Md.]: The Organization. Quarterly. Vol. 1, no. 1 (Jan. 1989)-

Z672.I542

International Hatchery Practice. [Humberside, England: Positive Action Publications Ltd. Eight issues yearly. Began in 1986?

SF481.I56

Livestock & Meat Marketing Report / University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, College of Agriculture, Department of Agricultural Economics. [Urbana, Ill.: Cooperative Extension Service. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign]. Quarterly. Vol. 1, no. 1 (Jan. 1985)-

HD9433.A1L58

Mycological Research. [Cambridge: Cambridge University Press]. Eight no. a year. Vol. 92, pt. 1 (Jan. 1989)-

QK600.M82

Norsk Landbruksforskning = Norwegian Agricultural Research. Ås, Norge: Statens fagteneste for landbruket. Four no. a year. Vol. 1, nr. 1 [c1987]-

S11.N672

Norsk Landbruksforskning. Supplement = Norwegian Agricultural Research. Supplement. Ås, Norge: Statens fagteneste for landbruket. No. 1 (1987)-

S11.N672 Suppl.

Norwegian Journal of Agricultural Sciences. Ås, Norway: Norwegian Agricultural Advisory Centre. Two no. a year. Vol. 1, no. 1 [c1987]-

S3.N672

Physics of Fluids. A, Fluid dynamics: a publication of the American Institute of Physics. New York, NY: The Institute. Monthly. Vol. 1, no. 1 (Jan. 1989)-

QC145.P5

Physics of Fluids. B, Plasma physics: a publication of the American Institute of Physics. New York, NY: The Institute. Monthly. Vol. 1, no. 1 (Jan. 1989)-

QC717.6.P5

Plant Varieties & Seeds. Oxford [England]: Published for the National Institute of Agricultural Botany by Blackwell Scientific Publications. Three times a year. Vol. 1, no. 1 (July 1988)-

SB4.P532

Revista brasileira de zoologia. São Paulo: Sociedade Brasileira de Zoologia. Vol. 1, fasc. 1 [c1982]-

QL242.R48

South America, Central America, and the Caribbean. London: Europa Publications Ltd. 1st ed. (1986)-

F1401.S68

Supervisory Management. [Saranac Lake, N.Y.: Periodicals Division, American Management Association. Monthly. [Vol. 34, no. 1] (Jan. 1989)-

HF5549.M35

Veterinary Medicine Report. St. Louis, Mo., U.S.A.: C.V. Mosby. Three no. a year. Vol. 1, no. 1 ([Dec. 1988])-

SF601.V4742

Winrock International Annual Report. Morrilton, Ark.: Winrock International Institute for Agricultural Development. Annual. 1986-

HD1417.W55



**Publications
Exchange**

Surplus Publications

The National Agricultural Library will make available the following surplus publications to any interested organization that regularly sends free publications to NAL, including most Federal, land-grant, and agricultural research institutions as well as many others. Foreign institutions will need to provide a U.S. mailing address or make other special arrangements with U.S. sources for shipment of material. Listed titles may be requested up to six months following announcement.

If interested, please enclose an addressed label with your request and write to:

National Agricultural Library
Attn: Gift and Exchange/RF, Room 002
10301 Baltimore Boulevard
Beltsville, MD 20705

Or call Ruth Finnblade, (301) 344-1207.

American Journal of Agricultural Economics. Vol. 54-56, 1972-73.

American Journal of Botany. Vol. 51-60, 1964-73.

American Journal of Veterinary Research. Vol. 49, 1988.

Analytical Biochemistry. Vol. 29-99, 1969-79.

Annals of the Entomological Society of America. Vol. 63-63, 1970-71.

Annual Report of the Hormel Institute. 1943-1962.

Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy. Vol. 32, 1988.

Applied and Environmental Microbiology. Vol. 54, 1988.

Biochemistry. Vol. 1-18, 1962-79.

Canadian Journal of Physiology and Pharmacology. Vol. 66, 1988.

Canadian Plant Disease Survey. Vol. 52-68, 1972-88.

Dairy Foods. Vol. 87-88, 1986-87.

Dairy Record. Vol. 83-86, 1982-85.

Encyclopaedia Britannica. 1942; 1955; 1957; 1964.

Herbage Abstracts. Vol. 7-37, 1937-67.

Infection Immunity. Vol. 31-45, 1981-89.

Journal of Animal Science. Vol. 44-64, 1977-87.

Journal of Bacteriology. Vol. 131-140, 1977-79; 170, 1988.

Journal of Cell Science. Vol. 59-64, 1984.

Journal of Dairy Science. Vol. 71, 1988.

Journal of Food Science. Vol. 36-43, 1971-78.

Journal of Heredity. Vol. 74-79, 1983-88.

Journal of Liquid Chromatography. Vol. 2-4, 1979-81.

Journal of Parasitology. Vol. 67-68, 1981-82.

Journal of Virology. Vol. 1-4, 1967-69; 15-19, 1975-76; Vol. 25-40, 62, 1978-81, 1988.

Molecular and Cellular Biology. Vol. 7, 1987.

Mycologia. Vol. 80, 1988.

Natural Resources Journal. Vol. 1-18, 1961-78.

Phytochemistry. Vol. 27, 1988.

Plant Disease. Vol. 64-66, 1980-81; 72, 1988.

Proceedings of the Entomological Society of Washington. Vol. 73-82, 1977-80.

Protozoological Abstracts. Vol. 1-6, 1977-82.

Review of Applied Entomology. Series A: Agricultural. Vol. 61-66, 1973-78.

Review of Applied Entomology. Series B: Medical & Veterinary. Vol. 61-66, 1973-78.

Review of Plant Pathology. Vol. 52, 1973.

Toxin. Vol. 26, 1988.

Surplus Publications in Russian

Amelioration and Protection of Nature. Moskva, 1985.
Beef, Veal and Lamb Operations. Moskva, 1960.

Bioproduction of Grasslands. Tallin, 1986.

Complex Investigations of Water Reservoirs. Moskva, 1971.

Condition and Prospects of the Development and Improvement of the Production Output of Vegetables in Protected Ground. Tashkent, 1980.

Developmental Biology of Cotton Fibre and Its Technological Properties. Tashkent, 1975.

Inventiveness and Improvement in Veterinary Medicine. 1960.

Lake Cirisa. Riga, 1984.

Mechanization of the Cultivation and Harvesting of Vegetables. Moskva, 1983.

Micro-organisms--Antagonists of Originators of Fungous Diseases of Cotton. Tashkent, 1975.

Physiological Role of Calcium in the Salt-tolerance of Cotton. Tashkent, 1973.

*Polyploidy in the Genus *Gossypium* l, and its Cytological Aspects.* Tashkent, 1975.

Science for the National Economy. Moskva, 1979.

Theory and Experiment in Vegetation Remote Sensing. Leningrad, 1987.

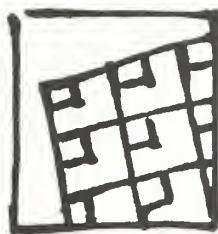
Thermoplasts in the Construction of Land Melioration and Water Management Systems. Elgava, 1987.

Old USDA Yearbooks Wanted

Old Yearbooks of Agriculture are wanted for the years: 1889-1893; 1929 and 1938. Anyone who has extra copies, please write to:

Ruth Finnblade
Surplus Distribution, Rm. 002
10301 Baltimore Boulevard
Beltsville, Maryland 20705

Or call (301) 344-1207.



Agriculture Datebook

October 11-13: National Broiler Council Annual Convention. Washington, DC; J.W. Marriott Hotel. Contact: NBC, (202) 296-2622.

October 12-13: Southeastern Poultry & Egg Association Women in Management Seminar. Atlanta, GA. Contact: SPEA, 1456 Church Street, Decatur, GA 30030.

October 12-13: Western States Meat Association Annual Meat Processing Conference. Fort Collins, CO; University Park Holiday Inn & Colorado State U. Contact: Lynda Guthrie, WSMA, (415) 763-6186.

October 15-17: Agriculture Council of America Annual Meeting. Washington, DC; Mayflower Hotel. Contact: ACA, (202) 682-9200.

October 15-18: Milk Industry Foundation/Ice Cream Manufacturers Association Annual Convention. Boston, MA. Contact: MIF, (202) 296-4250.

October 15-18: National Association of State Foresters Meeting. San Antonio, TX. Contact: NASF, (202) 624-5415.

October 15-19: American Forestry Association Annual Convention. St. Louis, MO. Contact: AFA, (202) 667-3300.

October 15-20: American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, and Soil Science of America Annual Meeting. Las Vegas, NV. Contact: Jay Poster, American Society of Agronomy, 677 South Segoe Road, Madison, WI 53711 (608) 273-8080.

October 15-20: Crop Agronomy Meeting. Las Vegas, NV. Contact: ASA (608) 274-1212.

October 16: American Society of Agronomy Meeting. Washington, DC. Contact: ASA (608) 274-1212.

October 16: World Food Day. Washington, DC. Contact: Patricia Young, (202) 653-2404. USDA Contact: George Holcomb, (202) 447-5746.

October 16-17: Education Programs for Alternative Agriculture in the Northeast Interactive Workshop. Albany, NY. Contact: Nancy Grudens Schuck, Cornell University, (315) 364-7837.

October 16-18: Agriculture Council of America Annual Convention. Washington, DC. Contact: ACA, (202) 682-9200.

October 16-18: The National Conference on Nutrition--20 Years Later. Washington, DC. Contact: (617) 381-3500.

October 16-18: Tri-State Poultry Federation Annual Meeting. Indianapolis, IN; Holiday Inn-North at the Pyramids. Contact: TSPF, Poultry Science Bg., Purdue U., W. Lafayette, IN 47907.

October 16-20: International Conference of Research Leaders. Paris, France. Contact: (202) 447-3656.

October 17: United Nations' World Food Day Ceremony. New York, NY. Contact: (202) 447-4623.

October 17-18: American Soybean Association Outlook Conference. London, England; Heathrow Penta Hotel,

Heathrow Airport. Contact: Dominique Robert, ASA, Centre International Rogier, Box 521, 1210 Brussels, Belgium.

October 17-19: Sunbelt Agricultural Exposition. Moultrie, GA; Spence Field. Contact: Donald Poucher, (904) 392-1971.

October 17-19: Biotechnica 89--5th International Congress & Exhibition for Biotechnology. Hannover, W. Germany; Hannover Fairgrounds. Contact: Hannover Fairs USA, Inc., 103 Carnegie Center, Princeton, NJ 08540.

October 18: China Conference-IDEALS. Las Vegas, NV. Contact: (202) 447-3656.

October 18: Institute of Internat'l Development and Education in Agriculture & Life Sciences Meeting. Las Vegas, NV. Contact: (202) 447-5923.

October 18-20: Association of Research Libraries. Washington, DC.

October 18-20: USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council Annual Convention. Coeur d'Alene, ID. Contact: (208) 882-3023.

October 18-22: Drug, Chemical & Allied Trades Association 99th Annual Meeting. La Quinta, CA. Contact: DCAT, (212) 229-8891.

October 19-20: National Meeting on Poultry Health & Condemnations. Ocean City, MD. Contact: Delmarva Poultry Industry, Inc., R.D. 2, Box 47, Georgetown, DE 19947-9622.

October 20: Association for Consumer Research Meeting. New Orleans, LA. Contact: (301) 436-7725.

October 20-22: National Citizen's Conference on Groundwater. Des Moines, IA. Contact: Jean DeStefano, EPI, 218 D St., S.W., Washington, DC 20003.

October 22-24: American Agricultural Editors' Association Annual Meeting & Communications Clinic. Milwaukee, WI. Contact: (202) 785-6710.

October 22-24: American Feed Industry Association Midwest Convention. Kansas City, MO. Contact: AFIA, (703) 524-0810.

October 22-24: American Frozen Food Institute Convention. Atlanta, GA. Contact: AFFI, (703) 821-0770.

October 22-25: Communication Officers of State Depts. of Agriculture Annual Meeting. Atlantic City, NJ. Contact: Carol Shipp, (609) 292-8896.

October 23: Nutrasweet Conference. Williamsburg, VA. Theme: "Food & Nutrition: Technology & Global Issues." Contact: (202) 447-4623.

October 23-25: United Egg Producers Annual Convention. Williamsburg, VA. Contact: UEP, (202) 833-3123.

October 24-25: ARS Pacific West Area Research Leaders' Meeting. Tucson, AZ. Contact: (202) 447-3656.

October 24-26: Cornell Nutrition Conference. Syracuse, NY; Marriott Inn. Contact: Dee Brothers, Dept. of Animal Science, 272 Morrison Hall, Ithaca, NY 14853-4801.

October 24-26: National Rural Water Association Convention. Columbus, OH. Contact: (202) 333-8830.

October 25-28: Export '89 International EC/USA Business Summit. Frankfurt, West Germany.

October 26-28: Cashmere Goat Conference. San Angelo, TX; San Angelo Convention Center. Contact: Carolyn Ellison, (915) 653-1206.

October 27-29: Second North American Rabbit Congress. Springfield, MO. Contact: John Harkness, P.O.

Drawer V, Mississippi State, MS 39762.

October 29-November 1: Southern Agricultural Association Convention. Pine Mountain, GA; Callaway Gardens. Contact: SACA, P.O. Box 686, Dawson, GA 31742.

October 29-November 2: American Association of Cereal Chemists Annual Meeting. Washington, DC. Contact: AACC, (612) 454-7250.

October 29-November 2: American Society for Information Science. Washington, DC.

October 30-November 3: International Centers Week Meeting of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). Washington, DC.

October 31-November 2: National Agri-Marketing Association Issues Forum. Chicago, IL; Hyatt Regency O'Hare. Contact: NAMA, (913) 492-0220.

October 31-November 3: Agricultural Cooperative Service North Central Region #140 Meeting. Sacramento, CA. Contact: (202) 653-6976.

November 1-3: Atlantic Seedmen's Association 1989 Convention. Saratoga, NY. Contact: Dr. John E. Baylor, ASA, 298 East McCormick Ave., State College, PA 16801. (814) 237-0330.

November 1-3: Fiber Society Fall 1989 Conference. Raleigh, NC; Embassy Suites Hotel. Contact: FS, P.O.Box 625, Princeton, NJ 08542.

November 1-5: Globescope Pacific Assembly. Los Angeles, CA. Contact: Global Tomorrow Coalition, (202) 628-4016.

November 2: U.S. Meat Export Federation Board of Directors Meeting. Washington, DC. Contact: (202) 447-4623.

November 3-4: American Agricultural Law Association 9th Annual Meeting & Educational Conference. San Francisco, CA; Hotel Nikko. Contact: William Babione, U. of Ark. School of Law, Fayetteville, AR 72701. (501) 575-7389.

November 4: American Seed Trade Association Lawn Seed Conference. Kansas City, MO. Contact: ASTA, 1030 15th Street, N.W., Suite 964, Washington, DC 20005-1593. (202) 223-4080.

November 6-7: ISHS International Symposium on the Culture of Subtropical and Tropical Fruit and Crops. Nelspruit, South Africa. Contact: ISHS International Symposium, Private Bag X11208, Nelspruit 1200, Republic of South Africa.

November 6-7: International Irrigation Exposition and Conference. Las Vegas, NV. Contact: (202) 447-3656.

November 7: American Seed Trade Association Farm Seed Conference, Kansas City, MO. Contact: ASTA, 1030 15th Street, N.W., Suite 964, Washington, DC 20005-1593. (202) 223-4080.

November 7: Online '89 Conference. Chicago, IL; Palmer House. Contact: Online, Inc., 11 Tannery Lane, Westton, CT 06883.

November 7-8: National Alliance of Independent Crop Consultants' Annual Meeting. Las Vegas, NV. Contact: Garry Raymond, (312) 739-0818.

November 7-9: ARS Southern Plains Area Research Leaders' Meeting. Las Cruces, NM. Contact: (202) 447-3656.

November 7-13: Agro Expo China '89. Beijing, China; (See Datebook, page 22, col. 2)

The following report was distributed at meetings of various library associations during the summer of 1989 and is reprinted here for those who did not see it previously. Much of the material consists of updates on projects and activities reported in earlier issues of *ALIN*.

NAL Semiannual Report of Activities, Winter-Spring 1989

Technology Applications

National Agricultural Text Digitizing Project. The first pilot study CD-ROM, *Aquaculture I*, was shipped to the 44 participating land-grant sites on March 2, 1989, for evaluation. These sites are evaluating the disk contents and the usefulness of accessing text plus images versus text alone, as well as the search software, *Textware Plus*. The second pilot disk, on international agriculture using *KAware2* software, has been produced by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research and should be ready for shipment in May 1989. Scanning has begun for the third disk, *Agent Orange*, using *Personal Librarian* software and should be complete in June. A fourth pilot disk, on food irradiation, is also planned. Alternative methods are being explored for production of the multi-disk set on acid rain, which is expected by October 1989.

Image Transmission Project. As an adjunct to the National Agricultural Text Digitizing Project, NAL is working cooperatively with North Carolina State University and the University of Maryland on a demonstration project to test the feasibility of transmitting image information over the NSF Internet. NAL and North Carolina State University Library will put in place a telecommunications link which will enable NAL to transmit bit-mapped page images of requested material to North Carolina State. Two nodes will be established there, one at the library and another in the School of Agriculture. This project is part of a continuing effort to improve the delivery of agricultural information.

AGRICOLA on CD-ROM. The complete range of AGRICOLA records is now available through SilverPlatter Information Services on three CD-ROM disks: 1970-78, 1979-1984, and 1984-present. Recent enhancements to the system software allow networked use of multiple CD-ROM players. Three OCLC disks also cover AGRICOLA: 1979-1982, 1983-1985, and 1986-present. The most recent disk includes CRIS (Current Research Information System) records as well as AGRICOLA. Enhancements to the "Search CD450" System are due to be released soon. Quantia Press Inc., St. Paul, has announced a \$99.00 AGRICOLA CD-ROM containing records "from the current file, 1984-present. A second version containing the entire archival set will be available for \$199.00." The first compact disk will be available for shipping in late June.

Computer-based Interactive Instruction. NAL with the University of Maryland, Center for Instructional Education and Development, has produced a computer-based instructional video program for training in searching the AGRICOLA online database. The courseware is on seven floppy disks and accesses a videodisk with graphics, moving pictures and sound. The package, called *AGRICOLearn*, runs on an IBM-AT type computer with videodisk player and may have a touch screen. It is intended primarily for independent use and is completely self-instructional. It can be used to learn how to perform simple author-title searches, in-depth subject searches, or simply to become familiar with online systems and searching databases in general. The user interacts directly with the system, determines his own pace, and may review or repeat as needed. Such interactive systems have resulted in high student motivation, sometimes greater than in instructor-led classes. *AGRICOLearn* course packages are available free to land-grant university libraries that have a system on which to use it. A complete *AGRICOLearn* hardware and software system is available for short-term loan from NAL. The course packages may also be purchased from the University of Maryland.

Photograph Collections on Laser Disk. The Special Collections Branch has issued a videodisk finding aid to Forest Service historical photographs at NAL. With an available database, pictures can be searched by subject, location, date and many other parameters, and displayed on a video monitor. The disk and data base are available through NTIS. USDA's Office Of Government and Public Affairs (OGPA) and NAL Special Collections Branch have issued a laser disk finding aid to a selection of recent photos submitted by USDA Agencies. The more than 15,000 images on the 1989 OGPA disk cover a wide range of topics including forestry, animal husbandry, and aquaculture. The disk and database are available through NTIS. It was created, as succeeding disks will be, at NAL by direct recording of video images on optical WORM Disk. During the year-long creation process, USDA-OGPA and several other sites received monthly updates of WORM disks and working data bases. Reproductions of other NAL Special Collections materials, including hand-colored botanical engravings, will be included on future disks.

Integrated Library System. ISIS, NAL's integrated library system, using the VTLS application software, is in the process of being implemented. Currently journal issues are being checked into the serials module. Later in 1989 the online catalog, circulation, and indexing system will be made available for use. The field libraries of the USDA Agricultural Research Service have been searching the database since February, 1989, as a special project.

Bulletin Board System. ALF (Agricultural Library Forum), NAL's micro-computer-based electronic bulletin board system, provides electronic access to information about NAL products and services and functions as a focal point for networking activities for those who dispense and use agricultural information. Since its introduction in June 1988, ALF has witnessed a growing roster of users. As it becomes more widely known we hope to see a steady influx of new informa-

tion, ideas, and dialogue. A number of pilot projects are being contemplated which will further explore ALF's usefulness including its evaluation as a mechanism for cooperative reference services, for receipt of document delivery requests, for delivery of online search results, and as doors to other systems (*i.e.*, online database, CD-ROM, ISIS).

Expert Advisory Systems Available in ALF. Expert advisory systems mimic the advice-giving capabilities of human experts. Staff members at NAL and at several cooperating libraries have prepared a number of advisory systems for ready reference. Selecting choices from a series of menus, the user can locate books, reports, articles, or other sources that might provide background or answer factual questions on many aspects of the topics covered in these advisors. Below are listed systems available for downloading from ALF, NAL's bulletin board system. To download any of the advisory systems on ALF, use microcomputer communications software to call (301) 344-8510. Then access the Files section and use the download command, with Modem or X-Modem as a file transfer protocol. Instructions on the use of archived (compressed) files are available in BULLET 4 in the M)ain system. The required shareware for dearchiving files may be downloaded from ALF as well. For further information, call Karl Schneider, ALF systems operator at (301) 344-2113. The complete list of expert advisory systems available on ALF at the time of this report is as follows:

[FILENAME/ Title/ Author]

AQREFADV.ARC/ AquaRef Expert Advisory System/
Deborah Hanfman

LAQUADV.ARC/ Louisiana Aquaculture Expert Advisory System/ Susan Hocker

FNICAID.ARC/ Food & Nutrition Information Center
Artificial Intelligence Demo/ Holly Irving

OCHEMADV.ARC/ Organic Chemicals Expert Advisor/
Craig Robertson

KNOWLADV.ARC/ Knowledge-Base on Expert Systems/
Sam Waters

ASFOR.ARC/ Asphalt Forest (Urban forestry Advisor)/
Stephanie Chase and Edward Gilman

SEARCHADV.ARC/ Search Strategy Expert Advisor/
Elizabeth Whiting and Daniel Starr

REGIS: Regional Information System for African Aquaculture. In late 1988, NAL and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N. joined in a cooperative international project to improve access to information on aquaculture in Africa. Called REGIS (REGional Information System for African Aquaculture), the resulting prototype merges two popular technologies, hypermedia and expert systems, into a useful and easy-to-access automated system which runs on a microcomputer. It contains the entire text of an "Aquaculture Regional Sector Survey for the African Region," and related text and graphics of other documents. REGIS was completed in March, 1989, and is being distributed on diskettes to interested persons through the National Technical Information Service. Land-grant university libraries will receive complimentary copies.

Technical Services

Optical Scanning in a Production Environment. The Indexing Branch of NAL and its cooperators produce 85% of the records in AGRICOLA (AGRICultural OnLine ACCESS), the library's bibliographic database. To enhance AGRICOLA, a project was initiated to evaluate optical scanning technology for data capture of bibliographic information and to compare it with manual data entry. Author abstracts were scanned using a handheld scanner and merged with the appropriate indexing record. The results of this project will be presented at the American Library Association Annual Conference on June 25, 1989, during the session on "Optical Scanning: Potential for Libraries" sponsored by the LITA Optical Information Systems Interest Group.

Cooperation with CAB International. During the week of May 1, 1989, Stella Dextre Clarke from CAB International visited the NAL to discuss cooperative efforts between the two organizations. Major topics of discussion included development and maintenance of the *CAB Thesaurus*; publication of the *World List of Agricultural Serials*; and the creation of a universal, multilingual agricultural thesaurus.

World List of Agricultural Serials. The World List of Agricultural Serials is a joint project of NAL and CAB International to print a list of serials indexed in AGRICOLA, AGRIS, and CAB Abstracts. NAL is in the process of editing the data and will be typesetting the list, which will be published and distributed by CABI. It is expected that the list will be available by the end of 1989. NAL and CABI are also exploring the possibilities of producing on CD-ROM a larger list that would include all of NAL's agricultural serials.

State Publications National Program. NAL is coordinating a program with 47 land-grant libraries to improve bibliographic control of and access to state agricultural publications. Land-grant libraries are augmenting a list of state experiment station and extension service series compiled at NAL and are giving documents published in their respective states priority cataloging. NAL acquires copies of the publication based on the updated lists and catalogs or indexes the materials as appropriate. All cataloged items appear in OCLC, and all records are incorporated into the AGRICOLA database. The land-grant libraries and NAL are now examining serial cataloging practices for state agricultural titles and will work with producers of this material to increase uniformity for more efficient cataloging.

Retrospective Conversion. The Cataloging Branch has been engaged in several retrospective cataloging projects with the purpose of increasing the number of records in machine readable form for titles held by NAL. Among these projects are:

SOLINET Project on AWIC and Chinese Records. The Cataloging Branch has identified titles in the subject area of animal science cataloged before 1966 and not yet in machine readable form. Approximately 12,000 records have been updated to include AACR2 name headings, current LC sub-

ject headings and AGRICOLA subject category codes. These records have been entered into OCLC by SOLINET in Atlanta, GA. SOLINET also entered records for Chinese material identified by Chen Qiubo, a visiting scholar from China. Approximately 2,000 publications in Chinese or about China were identified and sent to SOLINET. Both projects are near completion with only a handful of items left to be converted.

University of Illinois Title IIC Grant. For two years the University of Illinois has been the recipient of a U.S. Department of Education Title IIC Grant to catalog retrospectively USDA and state agricultural titles. They are adding these records, including those with NAL's call number, to the AGRICOLA database. Over 34,000 records have been added thus far.

Cornell Retrospective Project. In a project completed in 1988, the Branch received and processed 1,049 RLIN bibliographic citations for inclusion in the AGRICOLA database. This project was supported by a Title IIC grant under which Cornell University cataloged and processed a Chinese technical agriculture collection housed in the Albert R. Mann Library.

OPTIRAM. This project is a blend of in-house retrospective conversion and the utilization of a corporation specializing in scanning and machine conversion functions. Titles not found in OCLC are photocopied, NAL specific data are added, and the records shipped to OPTIRAM Automation Inc. in the U.K. Here they are converted to machine-readable and MARC format through a combination of scanning and software conversion. The advantage of this procedure is its low cost, estimated at \$1.00 per record.

Computer-Aided Instruction for Cataloging. Technical Services Division has received funding from Apple Computer, Inc., to develop computer-aided instructional materials for the training of novice catalogers. Initially, the package will focus on the descriptive areas of cataloging, but it's modular nature will allow the addition of other aspects of cataloging. NAL will also cooperate with OCLC, another recipient of Apple funding, in the evaluation of a "Cataloger's Workstation" featuring machine-readable reference works. NAL's proposal was one of twelve funded from over 1,350 proposals submitted to the Apple Library of Tomorrow program.

Information Centers

Alternative Farming Systems Information Center. USDA's Low Input/Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program (LISA) provides funding support for the NAL Alternative Farming Systems Information Center (AFSIC). The Center, in turn, provides information and a selection of 34 topical bibliographies to those interested in sustainable or alternative agriculture. Outreach activities to alert this audience to our services include appearances on the programs of several national conferences between September 1988 and March 1989, plus a number of exhibits. AFSIC was featured in a short documentary video by

Economics Research Service called "Alternative Agriculture: Growing Concerns," which was released to television stations.

Animal Welfare Information Center. The AWIC has been emphasizing publications, with 23 titles now available, including a number of *Quick Bibliographies* and *Special Reference Briefs*. Topics have included: LD50, the Draize eye irritancy test, and ethical and moral issues relating to animal use. Listings of audio-visuals and federal legislation have been completed. The work of three grant recipients has concluded with four documents, including a journal article. A videotape describing the scope and services of the Center is in its final stages. It will be made available for those facilities that are regulated by APHIS or to servicing organizations such as libraries.

Biotechnology Information Center. NAL will be working with CSRS to initiate an electronic bulletin board for the National Biological Information Assessment Program. The focus of the board is risk assessment of the environmental release of genetically engineered organisms. Information Center staff will be responsible for gathering and preparing data on information sources, patents, and yellow pages (directories, newsletters, databases, videotapes, germplasm collections, and resources). Other portions of the board will include: regulations, guidelines, laws and executive orders, research sites and Institutional Biosafety Committees. The board is scheduled to be operational in the Summer of 1989.

Rural Information Center. The RIC project network includes Cooperative Extension Service participants in 47 states and the territory of Guam. RIC contacted state library directors in the 38 states in which the RIC State Extension coordinators have established the program. Other state library directors will be contacted as soon as the RIC extension network is established in their states. Fourteen states named a state library representative to the RIC project. RIC is establishing this network with the State Libraries with the cooperation of the Rural Library Services Committee of the American Library Association. The state library representatives will coordinate with RIC and extension staff and locate, at either the local or state level, information resources that were identified by RIC in response to a request from their states.

Youth Development Information Center. Collection development and promotional efforts have been the priority for the Center, established in the Summer of 1988. The growing collection now consists of over 800 peer-reviewed and abstracted items donated/purchased from contacts made with youth professionals and organizations throughout the country. Reference requests have come from thirty states. Graduate students from the University of Maryland Department of Agriculture and Extension Education are working with Center staff.

Water Quality Initiative. President Bush has announced that improving the Nation's water quality will be one of the major initiatives during his administration. USDA has been named the lead agency in coordinating the government's

program on water quality. NAL has requested funding in the FY 1990 budget to establish a Water Quality Information Center. A water quality conference has been initiated on NAL's electronic bulletin board, ALF. Two new information products on the protection of surface and groundwater and on groundwater contamination have been completed. At the same time, AGRICOLA is being strengthened in the area of water quality.

Special Projects

Regional Document Delivery System (RDDS). Document delivery needs of USDA agricultural researchers in 36 states and Puerto Rico are covered by the Regional Document Delivery System. Eight land-grant libraries serve as regional coordinators for the libraries in the system. In April 1989 NAL began a series of visits to participating USDA/ARS Regional Research Center libraries and to the coordinating RDDS libraries. A review was made of the current practices and procedures; changes were agreed upon and recommendations for the future were discussed. NAL's Lending Branch will convene an RDDS meeting at both the Special Libraries Association meeting in New York and the American Library Association in Dallas. Discussions will center on increased volume of requests, limited funding, future requirements, and enhancements to the system and general processing.

Preservation Study. The ARL coordinated self-study on preservation planning is almost completed. A draft report is being reviewed by the Director and Division Chiefs prior to release.

Conspectus Project. NAL has been successful in working with the Research Libraries Group (RLG) to enter agricultural collection data into the RLIN conspectus. Kansas State University (KSU) library collection data for the Agricultural Division is now available to all participants online. KSU reports an exceptional collection in the area of postharvest technology, but is not a member of the RLG nor a participant in the ARL North American Collections Inventory Project. So far, KSU is the only such institution to have its data entered onto the RLIN conspectus. The purpose of this effort is to make the conspectus more useful by providing access to information about premier collections wherever they reside.

ARS/NAL Library Operations Review. Two years ago the NAL and the USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) conducted an interagency review of ARS field library operations for the purpose of bringing advanced and improved information delivery systems and services to ARS scientists. A concluding report identified an action agenda with the objective of formulating an ARS library of the future which is state-of-the-art, cost effective, and fully integrated with the resources of the agricultural information community. Highlights of accomplishments since the original report include: an evaluation study to connect the five ARS libraries studied and the facility at Beckley, W. Virginia, to ISIS in a test mode; creation of a staff development program for ARS librarians;

work on the analysis and preparation of an operations manual; application of new technologies at ARS libraries through serving as demonstration and test sites for selected new NAL technologies; improved service for ARS facilities with no library; and evaluation of NAL's Current Awareness Literature Service. This project is one aspect of the ongoing dialogue between the two agencies. ARS and NAL management meet regularly to exchange ideas, keep abreast of new initiatives, and further identify those areas in which NAL can strengthen its services to researchers and librarians particularly in applying technology for enhancing access to information.

United States Agricultural Information Network. In 1988 the NAL was instrumental in the formation of an agricultural libraries information network, now called the United States Agricultural Information Network (USAIN). The primary goal of the network is the provision of a forum for the discussion of agricultural information issues. In June 1988, officers were elected following a mail ballot cast by directors of land-grant university libraries, and since their election, the officers have held a series of meetings with interested agricultural information specialists and NAL staff. Draft bylaws have been circulated for comment by the potential membership of the organization, and plans have been made for a membership recruitment and election of new officers to begin their term in 1990. The network will sponsor program meetings on particular agricultural information topics and will have subgroups concentrating on telecommunications and legislative issues. NAL will be represented in an *ex officio* capacity on the governing board and will assist in the development of the new organization. Through the network NAL, land-grant, and special libraries will be able to work together to generate cooperative programs that will improve access to agricultural information. Although USAIN is only in a formative stage, it is already active in promoting discussion of agricultural issues. Networking activity is underway among serials librarians, who are meeting in conjunction with ALA to propose more effective means of bibliographic control over state agricultural publications. USAIN's origins are chronicled in "The United States Agricultural Information Network: Genesis of a Cooperative Organization," an article written by Sarah Thomas and appearing in the spring 1989 issue of *Special Libraries*.

--Compiled by Robert W. Butler

(Datebook, from page 18)

China International Exhibition Center. Contact: E.J. Krause & Associates, Inc., Three Bethesda Metro Center, Suite 510, Bethesda, MD 20814.

November 8-10: Southern Plains Area Research Leader Meeting. Houston, TX. Contact: (202) 447-3656.

November 9-10: U.S. Cane Sugar Refiners Association. Los Angeles, CA. Contact: (202) 331-1458.

November 9-11: 62nd National Future Farmers of America (FFA) Convention. Kansas City, MO. Contact: (703) 360-3600.

November 9-12: National Association of Farm Broadcasters Annual Meeting. Kansas City, MO. Contact: (612) 224-0508.

New Employees

New employees are introduced to the management staff at monthly meetings. Those shown here were introduced since last reported in *ALIN*. Some were temporary employees who have since left the library.



photo: D. Starr

Sharon Middleton, Secretary, Special Services Branch.



photo: D. Starr

Chris Stephens, Student, Collection Development.



photo: D. Starr

(Above L-R) Annette Swann, Computer Programmer, Library Automation Branch; Larry Wingfield, Student, Library Automation Branch; and Vanessa Johnson, Student, Information Systems Division.



photo: D. Starr

Janet Pannebecker, Student, Cataloging Branch.



photo: D. Starr

Rebecca Weber, Student, Cataloging Branch.



photo: D. Starr

Kimberly Eubanks, Clerk Typist, Lending Branch; Shawn Lane, Student, Public Services Division; Jana Landkammer, Graduate Student, Food & Nutrition Information Center.



photo: D. Starr

Janet Meyers, Indexer, Indexing Branch; Gretchen Kaminski, Indexer, Indexing Branch; Lorene Lucas, Library Technician, Indexing Branch.

United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Library
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provides a channel of communication to technical information specialists, librarians, extension workers, researchers, and scientists on agricultural information activities.

Joseph N. Swab, Editor.

Idalia Acosta, New Serials Editor.

Ruth Finnblade, Publications Exchange Editor.

Daniel Starr, Photographer.

[(301)-344-3937]



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New Employees



photo: D. Starr

Information Centers Branch personnel: (Above L-R) Diane Brigham, Intern from Clarion University of Pennsylvania, Rural Information Center; Karan Harris, Accounting Clerk, U. of MD. Contract; Monique St. Lawrence, Student, Animal Welfare; Kathleen Kirk, Clerk Typist, U. of MD. Contract; Katy Bielenberg, Alternative Farming; and Michele Foster, Student, Food & Nutrition. Additional new employees are introduced on page 23.



photo: D. Starr

Daniel Lech, Graduate Student, Indexing Branch.